

***FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY***  
***August 15***

**Gospel: (Luke 1: 39-56)**

Then Mary said: “My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my savior, for he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed. God who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is his name...He has deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. The hungry he has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away...

**Reflection:**

Blessed Ceferino Gimenez Malla was born in Spain in 1861. Ceferino Malla was beatified in 1997, and is a wonderful example for all Vincentians... He exemplifies charity to the poor and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Ceferino had a deep conversion experience. He became an active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, where he was ever ready to give generously to the poor. Though illiterate, the poor, uneducated and politically powerful came to him for advice and counsel. He was revered as a pious Catholic, a daily communicant. He took part in “Eucharistic Thursdays,” and night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In July 1936, during the Spanish Civil War, he was imprisoned for protesting the arrest of a priest. While in prison, Ceferino recited the rosary; and this angered his guards. He was offered his freedom if he would give up his rosary; he refused. He considered devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary a matter of great honor; he would not-could not-deny the Mother of God. He was killed by a firing squad on August 2, 1936, clutching his rosary...it was three weeks before his seventy-fifth birthday. (Manual of the Society of SVDP, p.96)

**Vincentian Meditation:**

On the feast of the Assumption, Frederic, three weeks away from death’s door, insisted on walking to church. There he attended Mass and received Holy Communion. “It may be my last walk in this world, and I desire that it shall be to pay a visit to my God and His Blessed Mother.”-Bl.Frederic Ozanam- (Ramson, Praying with Frederic, p. 70)

**Discussion:** *(Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)*

**Devotion to Mary is a fundamental root of our Vincentian vocation. What place does devotion to Our Lady hold in your life?**

**Closing Prayer:**

O God, you chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus,  
- **may she always be our hope in time of need.**  
Mary lived the mystery of Jesus and followed him to Calvary,  
-**give us the faith to follow her example.**  
Mary responded with joyful faith and radical witness to your call,  
-**open our hearts to your will. Amen**

